

1. (Once Amended) A method for accounting for network usage comprising:
- obtaining accounting start-stop event data from an accounting server;
- obtaining network flow data from a router within a network through an intermediary netflow collector, said network flow data including data regarding the number of packets utilized by a user; and
- correlating said accounting start-stop event data and said network flow data into a ~~subscriber specific call detail record.~~

13. (Amended Once) A method for accounting for network usage comprising:
- parsing accounting start-stop event data from an accounting server on a prescribed time interval;
- publishing said accounting start-stop event data on an information bus;
- collecting network flow data from a network router and forwarding said network flow data to a network flow collector, said network flow data including data regarding the number of packets utilized by a user;
- aggregating said network flow data according to a prescribed aggregation scheme;
- parsing said network flow data from said network flow collector;
- publishing said network flow data on an information bus;
- collecting said accounting start-stop event data and said network flow data at a target device that subscribes to said accounting start-stop event data and said network flow data; and

~~correlating said accounting start-stop event data and said network flow data into a subscriber specific call detail record.~~

14. (Once Amended) A method for aggregating accounting start-stop event data and network flow data within a computer network comprising:

obtaining accounting start-stop event data from an accounting server;

obtaining network flow data from a router within a network through intermediary netflow collectors, said network flow data including data regarding the number of packets utilized by a user; and

correlating said accounting start-stop event data and said network flow data into a call detail record.

15. (Once Amended) An apparatus for accounting for network usage comprising:

a means for obtaining accounting start-stop event data from an accounting server;

a means for obtaining network flow data from a router within a network through an intermediary netflow collector, said network flow data including data regarding the number of packets utilized by a user; and

a means for correlating said accounting start-stop event data and said network flow data into a subscriber specific call detail record.

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16. (Once Amended) An apparatus for accounting for network usage comprising:

- a means for parsing accounting start-stop event data from an accounting server on a prescribed time interval;
- a means for publishing said accounting start-stop event data on an information bus;
- a means for collecting network flow data from a network router and forwarding said network flow data to a network flow collector, said network flow data including data regarding the number of packets utilized by a user;
- a means for aggregating said network flow data according to a defined aggregation scheme;
- a means for parsing said network flow data from said network flow collector;
- a means for publishing said network flow data on an information bus;
- a means for collecting said accounting start-stop event data and said network flow data at a target device that subscribes to said accounting start-stop event data and said network flow data; and
- a means for correlating said accounting start-stop event data and said network flow data into a subscriber specific call detail record.

17. (Once Amended) An apparatus for aggregating accounting start-stop event data and network flow data within a computer network comprising:

- a means for obtaining accounting start-stop event data from an accounting server;

a means for obtaining network flow data from a router within a network through an intermediary netflow collector, said network flow data including data regarding the number of packets utilized by a user; and

a means for correlating said accounting start-stop event data and said network flow data into a call detail record.

18. (Once Amended) An apparatus for accounting for network usage comprising:

an accounting adapter in communication with accounting start-stop event data;

a network flow adapter in communication with network flow data, said network flow data including data regarding the number of packets utilized by a user; and

an integrating accounting adapter in communication with said accounting adapter and said network flow adapter which correlates said accounting start-stop event data and said network flow data into a subscriber specific call detail record.

22. (Once Amended) An apparatus for aggregating accounting start-stop event data and network flow data within a computer network comprising:

an accounting adapter in communication with accounting start-stop event data;

a network flow adapter in communication with network flow data, said network flow data including data regarding the number of packets utilized by a user; and

an integrating accounting adapter in communication with said accounting adapter and said network flow adapter which correlates said accounting start-stop event data and said network flow data into a subscriber specific call detail record.

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23. (Once Amended) A program storage device readable by a machine tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for accounting for network usage, said method comprising:

obtaining accounting start-stop event data from an accounting server;

obtaining network flow data from a router within a network through an intermediary netflow collector, said network flow data including data regarding the number of packets utilized by a user; and

correlating said accounting start-stop event data and said network flow data into a subscriber specific call detail record.

24. (Once Amended) A program storage device readable by a machine tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for aggregating accounting start-stop event data and network flow data in a computer network, said method comprising:

obtaining accounting start-stop event data from an accounting server;

obtaining network flow data from a router within a network through an intermediary netflow collector, said network flow data including data regarding the number of packets utilized by a user; and

correlating said accounting start-stop event data and said network flow data into a subscriber specific call detail record.

Kindly add new claims 26-35 as follows.

~~26. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said network flow data further includes data regarding the type of packets utilized by a user.~~

~~27. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein said network flow data further includes data regarding the type of packets utilized by a user.~~

~~28. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein said network flow data further includes data regarding the type of packets utilized by a user.~~

~~29. (New) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein said network flow data further includes data regarding the type of packets utilized by a user.~~

~~30. (New) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said network flow data further includes data regarding the type of packets utilized by a user.~~

~~31. (New) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein said network flow data further includes data regarding the type of packets utilized by a user.~~

~~32. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein said network flow data further includes data regarding the type of packets utilized by a user.~~

33. (New) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein said network flow data further includes data regarding the type of packets utilized by a user.

34. (New) The program storage device of claim 23, wherein said network flow data further includes data regarding the type of packets utilized by a user.

35. (New) The program storage device of claim 24, wherein said network flow data further includes data regarding the type of packets utilized by a user.

REMARKS

Claims 1, 13-18, and 22-24 have been amended to further particularly point out and distinctly claim subject matter regarded as the invention. The text of claims 2-12, and 19-21 is unchanged, but their meaning is changed because they depend from amended claims.

Claims 1, 13-18, and 22-24 have been amended to include limitations involving the data flow. Support for these amendments may be found in the specification, on page 12, line 11 through page 13, line 6.

No new matter has been introduced into any of the claims.